

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05741 251912Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 /060 W  
----- 047804

P R 251714Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4277

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ANTWERP

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CASC, BE, US

SUBJECT: AIR CLUB INTERNATIONAL

REF: BRUSSELS 5495 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY: SUBJECT AIR TRAVEL CLUB HAS APPARENTLY LOST AUTHORITY TO CARRY PASSENGERS. SOME 160 PERSONS PRESENTLY STRANDED IN BRUSSELS WHILE EFFORTS UNDER WAY TO ARRANGE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION TO SEATTLE. BELGIAN OFFICIALS INTERESTED IN INFORMATION CONCERNING JOEL EISENBERG OF ACI AND AERO AMERICA INC., ALSO OF SEATTLE.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED SOME 160 PASSENGERS, ALL OR MOST OF THEM APPARENTLY AMCITS, HAVE GATHERED AT BRUSSELS FOR RETURN TO SEATTLE TODAY AS MEMBERS OF SUBJECT AIR TRAVEL CLUB OF 506 UNION ST., SEATTLE, WASH. 98101. (WE MENTIONED ACI IN REFTTEL AS POSSIBLE SOURCE OF HELP IN LIFTING POTENTIALLY STRANDED AIR CALEDONIA PASSENGERS SOME WEEKS HENCE.) PLANE HAS NOT ARRIVED, AND WORD HAS COME THAT ACI RIGHT TO CARRY PASSENGERS HAS BEEN REVOKED BY CAB. ACCORDING TO ACI REP STEPHEN COLLIER, WHO  
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05741 251912Z

HAPPENED TO BE IN REGION AND HAS BEEN TRYING TO MAKE ALTER-

NATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PASSENGERS, BOTH SABENA AND PANAM HAVE OFFERED TO CARRY STRANDED PASSENGERS TO SEATTLE AT ADDITIONAL FARE OF DOLS 120 AND DOLS 188, RESPECTIVELY, PER PASSENGER. ACCORDING TO COLLIER, CAB WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO APPROVE ONE OF THESE OFFERS BY 1900 HOURS JUNE 25. IF APPROVED, PASSENGERS COULD DEPART BRUSSELS JUNE 26 VIA REGULARLY SCHEDULED SABENA OR PANAM FLIGHT.

3. ACCORDING TO COLLIER, ALL BUT TWO OF PASSENGERS CONTACTED HAVE SAID THEY CAN PAY ADDITIONAL AMOUNT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SABENA OR PANAM OFFER. WE ARE HOPEFUL WE CAN AVOID REPATRIATION OF DESTITUTE AMCITS IF THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE CARRIED OUT.

4. FOR COPENHAGEN. EARLIER JUNE 25 ACI PREMATURELY ADVISED PASSENGERS TO PROCEED ON THEIR OWN TO COPENHAGEN, WHERE THEY COULD CATCH AN SAS FLIGHT TO THE U.S. AT NO ADDITIONAL COST. THE SAS SOLUTION DID NOT PAN OUT, BUT COLLIER THINKS SOME PASSENGERS MIGHT ALREADY HAVE LEFT FOR COPENHAGEN. IF SO, THEY ARE LIKELY TO REQUIRE ASSISTANCE WHEN THEY REACH THERE AND DISCOVER THAT NO ARRANGMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THEM.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE AUTHORITATIVE INFORMAION AS TO STATUS OF ACI. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BE INFORMED WHETHER ALTERNATIVE ARRANGMENTS DESCRIBED PARA 2 ABOVE FOR PRESENTLY STRANDED PASSENGERS ARE APPROVED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERAL MORE ACI FLIGHTS BETWEEN SEATTLE AND BRUSSELS HAVE BEEN PLANNED, BUT ARE NOT CERTAIN WHETHER ANY OTHER GROUPS OF ACI PASSENGERS ARE PRESENTLY IN EUROPE AND WILL REQUIRE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN COMING WEEKS.

6. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. BELGIAN CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIALS HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY HAD ANY DIFFICULTY WITH ACI. RECENTLY HOWEVER THEY WERE CALLED UPON BY JOEL EISENBERG, WHO IS APPARENTLY AN ACI OFFICIAL, BUT WHO CALLED ON BELGIANS AS REPRESENTATIVE OF A FIRM CALLING ITSELF AERO AMERICA INC. OF SEATTLE, WASH. EISENBERG SAID HE WAS PRESIDENT:GERNERAL MANAGER, AND WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A GERMAN NATIONAL, HEINZ MATHUS. HE WAS SEEKING CLEARANCE TO OPERATE PASSENGER SERVICE IN BELGIUM. BELGIAN OFFICIAL PROMISED TO CONSIDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 05741 251912Z

MATTER, BUT HAS TOLD US THAT HE WAS UNFAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY MANNER AND SUBSTANCE OF EISENBERG/MATHUS PROPOSAL. HE ASKS WHETHER WE CAN PROVIDE, ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS IF NECESSARY, ANY BACKGROUND ON EISENBERG OR AERO AMERICA INC. IN VIEW OF EXCELLENT COOPERATION WE HAVE WITH OFFICE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE AS FORTHCOMING A RESPONSE AS POSSIBLE TO THIS REQUEST. RENNER

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## Message Attributes

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